

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **SUMMARY OF EXISTING MANAGEMENT POLICIES**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Multiple Species Conservation Program County of San Diego Subarea Plan consists of three Segments: Lake Hodges; Metro-Lakeside-Jamul; and, South County. Each of these Segments, and the Subarea Plans for other jurisdictions, including the City of San Diego, have policies and directives regarding monitoring and management of preserved lands. Area Specific Management Directives shall be incorporated into actions relating to these lands. The following section is a summary of the management issues within the Segments. However, details of policies must be investigated further in the original documents and the contents contained hereinafter should be utilized as guidelines to management.

#### **Lake Hodges Segment**

The Lake Hodges Segment (LHS) is located in west-central San Diego County, west of Interstate 15, north of the City of San Diego, and east of Rancho Santa Fe.

The LHS covers approximately 8,874 acres. The majority of the land is currently vacant, with approximately 512 acres in agricultural uses and a few scattered homes. Four major projects are located in this Subarea: Rancho Cielo, 4S Ranch, Santa Fe Valley and the Madura Subdivision. Agreements between the landowners, County staff, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) were concluded on all four private projects, either to establish “hard lines,” for the LHS preserve or as part of the 4(d) Habitat Loss Permit process.

These projects are a mix of new communities with urban level uses, and low-density residential developments with a variety of private and public support facilities. Additional land owned by the City of San Diego, which exists as a peninsula within Lake Hodges and north of the Lake, is included in the LHS, but is not counted as part of the County’s total number of preserved acres, nor is it subject to the County’s Subarea Plan or Framework Management Plan. A parcel of mitigation land purchased by the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) north of Lake Hodges and an area created as a mitigation bank by The Environmental Trust for Bernardo Mountain are also included in the LHS.

The area is traversed by the Del Dios Highway, and crisscrossed by dirt roads. Various utility lines, including electrical and water, currently cross portions of the LHS. The San Dieguito River runs through the central portion of the LHS, generally paralleling the Del Dios Highway. Lake Hodges extends partially into the northeast boundary of the LHS. Lusardi Creek lies along the southern boundary of the LHS.

The dominant vegetation types shown on the MSCP vegetation maps for the LHS are grassland, coastal sage scrub (CSS) and maritime chaparral. Subsequent field mapping has shown that non-native grassland makes up the majority of the grasslands in the LHS.

#### ***Covered Species List***

The LHS will also provide conservation benefits for uncovered species. Although the MSCP only

provides take authorization and protection for 85 covered species, the LHS will provide adequate protection for an additional 29 species. Therefore, a total of 114 species will be protected in this Segment. Not all species designated on the MSCP list occur within this Segment.

### **Remaining Land within the Lake Hodges Segment**

Land under the ownership of the City of San Diego surrounds Lake Hodges. Approximately 19 acres, has also been acquired by the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) north of the reservoir and just east of the City lands. The majority of the vegetation at this site is Coastal sage scrub. Furthermore, additional land that partially surrounds and includes Bernardo Mountain are under the control of The Environmental Trust. This land, consisting of approximately 279 acres, is intended to be utilized as a mitigation bank. Approximately 59 acres of it is located in the unincorporated area. It contains Coastal sage scrub, some Southern mixed chaparral and smaller amounts of Oak woodland and Riparian oak woodland.

The resultant preserve will consist of 4,743 acres. The preserve includes more than 2,600 acres of Coastal sage scrub, 1,422 acres of Southern mixed chaparral, 14.5 acres of Southern maritime chaparral, 60 acres of native grassland, 105 acres of Oak and Riparian woodlands and scrub, and 79 acres of marsh and wet meadow. The preserve also protects a major portion of the Hodges Reservoir-San Pasqual Valley Core Area identified in the Draft MSCP, as well as providing the vital regional linkage to the northwest to the Carlsbad/La Costa region. This is the primary connection between these two regions for the California gnatcatcher.

### **Fuel Modification Zones**

Within the LHS the general guidelines apply, but with the zone boundary modified by project circumstances as follows: in Santa Fe Valley and 4S Ranch, the fuel modification zone is not part of the preserve; and, in Rancho Cielo, the fuel modification zone may occur outside of the individual homeowner lots, however, it is not counted as part of the preserve. The fuel modification zone for Rancho Cielo is a maximum zone, and may be reduced.

### ***Land Uses Allowed Within the Preserve***

#### **Existing Uses**

The preserve areas created through open space easements will generally prohibit any uses other than those specified in this Habitat Management Plan. In the 4S Ranch property, specific uses that will continue in the preserve include: horseback riding, mountain biking, fishing, low impact recreational uses, water wells, pumps and associated facilities, dams, roads and trails, grazing, and public utilities consistent with the approved Habitat Management Plan. However, until all of the areas of open space have been dedicated through processing of maps, there may be a continuation of existing uses within areas shown as preserve.

#### **Public Access and Recreation**

Public access and passive recreation are permitted uses within specified areas of the preserve on the Santa Fe Valley and 4S Ranch portions of the preserve. The location of access points, new trails and facilities, and a public control plan will be included in the framework habitat management plans in

Santa Fe Valley and the Area Specific Management Directives for 4S Ranch and the area-specific management directives and will be subject to approval by the County and resource agencies. All Habitat Management Plans will substantially conform to the general guidelines of this Framework Management Plan.

The Santa Fe Valley Specific Plan area shows a trail extending through the San Dieguito River and to the east as well as a trail diagonally across the central portion of the plan area connecting to the east loop road and Four Gee Road. The access points will be adjacent to the Del Dios Highway north of the bridge crossing of the San Dieguito River and adjacent to the proposed Transit Center. The 4S Ranch project will include a public trail through the Lusardi Creek portion of the site, on the southern end of the project.

### **Infrastructure**

The Santa Fe Valley Specific Plan illustrates the existing infrastructure and proposed infrastructure that will be necessary for the development of Santa Fe Valley. For the most part, the proposed infrastructure occurs outside of the Open Space areas. Proposed infrastructure would extend sewer lines through the golf course on the west edge of the Specific Plan Area. Since portions of the golf course are to remain in open space, the proposed infrastructure would impact some of them. However, the existing infrastructure for the Santa Fe Valley already supports 12 inch water lines through the central portion of the Specific Plan Area and a regional aqueduct traversing through the western portion of the site, both in areas where the land is proposed to be preserved as open space.

The Rancho Cielo Mitigation Plan dated April 14, 1995 shows the areas of sewer and water easements through the areas of natural open space. There are several small water and sewer easements through the open space areas and they were accounted for in the Habitat Loss Permit processed for the project.

4S Ranch proposes to have off-site water transmission lines to the project as well as off-site reclaimed water lines connecting to the treatment facility on 4S Ranch. While it is planned that only one of the off-site pipeline corridors will traverse the open space preserve, it may be necessary for others to do so as well as the project is refined.

### **Emergency, Safety and Police Services**

While brush management will be conducted outside the preserve, it may be desirable to carry out programs and activities designed to reduce the possibility of catastrophic wildfires that could destroy much of the Lake Hodges Segment preserve. Such activities may include controlled burns and fuel load reduction carried out in accordance with an approved site-specific plan or prescribed wildfire management program for the preserve.

All Law enforcement, medical, rescue, and emergency agencies shall be allowed unrestricted access to the preserve. In the event that entry into the preserve by law enforcement agencies is needed in the routine performance of their duties, use of existing roads and trails should be encouraged. In emergencies where there is a direct threat to public safety, the law enforcement agency should contact the Habitat Manager whenever feasible. The construction of any new roads required by law enforcement agencies shall be subject to all applicable state and federal laws, and be subject to review under NEPA and CEQA.

Biological mitigation for wetlands shall be in accordance with the state and federal policy of “no net loss” of wetland functions and values. All wetlands impacts and mitigation shall consider the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Clean Water Act, Section 404(b)(1) guidelines (40 C.F.R. Part 230), and California Fish and Game Code, 1600 provisions.

No grading will be performed within the LHS Preserve without prior determination of conformance with the LHS by the Director of the Department of Planning and Land Use of the County of San Diego.

### **Project Plans**

A Habitat Management Plan for the portion of the LHS preserve located in Rancho Cielo was included as part of the Mitigation Plan for the Habitat Loss Permit. The Madura project is of smaller size, therefore, it has no specific management plan other than to maintain the area as open space. The 4S Ranch and Santa Fe Valley Specific Plans contain conditions that the proponents shall prepare and submit separate habitat management plans to the CDFG, USFWS, and County, prior to the recordation of the first final map within each project. The Habitat Management Plan for 4S Ranch and Santa Fe Valley will act as their area-specific management directives. The County of San Diego is responsible for the management of lands in 4S Ranch beyond that of basic stewardship.

Additional Habitat Management Plans shall only be required for specific developments and those portions of the preserve that remain in private ownership. The plans will include a section on adaptive management procedures and provide for the preparation of an annual report, which will subject to County review. Land which is transferred to public ownership shall be managed by the accepting entity that may prepare a new habitat management plan or incorporate management into existing appropriate plans. However, habitat management plans will only be required to be prepared by the private property owner for private land when the specific plan requires it.

The Habitat Management Plan will include provisions for control of access, signage to prevent trespassing, trash and litter pickup, and other required activities. Any specific species surveys, censuses, biological monitoring and all other scientific research activities will be carried out consistent with the general guidelines of this Framework Management Plan. Specific species surveys, censuses, and biological monitoring are the County’s responsibility in 4S Ranch, but not in Santa Fe Valley. Any State and/or Federal agency proposing to perform such research in the privately owned portions of the preserve shall obtain permission and indemnify the landowner prior to the beginning of any such activities.

### **Specific Management Policies and Directives for the portion of the Lake Hodges Segment not covered by approved management plans**

### **Background**

#### ***Goals and Objectives***

The Lake Hodges Segment consists primarily of rolling hills, mesas, with slopes and deep canyons draining into the San Dieguito River Valley and Lusardi Creek. In spite of and due to the constraints

on this land, the optimum future condition envisioned for the Lake Hodges Segment is an open and relatively undisturbed river canyon, slopes and adjacent mesa tops containing a full ensemble of native species which provide functional wildlife habitat and movement capability. Integrated into the canyon network will be recreational trails.

### Covered Species

#### SENSITIVE SPECIES OBSERVED WITHIN THE LAKE HODGES SEGMENT

##### **PLANTS**

*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*  
*Adolphia californica*  
*Arctostaphylos glandulosa* ssp. *crassifolia*  
*Artemisia palmeri*  
*Baccharis vanessae*  
*Brodiaea orcuttii*  
*Ceanothus verrucosus*  
*Chamaebatia australis*  
*Comarostaphylis diversifolia* ssp. *Diversifolia*  
*Dudleya variegata*  
*Dudleya viscida*  
*Ferocactus viridescens*  
*Iva hayesiana*  
*Juncus acutus* var. *leopoldii*  
*Quercus dumosa*  
*Selaginella cinerascens*

##### **BIRD SPECIES**

American kestrel  
 Barn owl  
 Bell's sage sparrow  
 Black crowned night heron  
 Blue gray gnatcatcher  
 Blue grosbeak  
 California gnatcatcher  
 California horned lark  
 Cooper's hawk  
 Downy woodpecker  
 Golden eagle  
 Grasshopper sparrow

##### **BIRD SPECIES CONT.**

Great blue heron  
 Great egret  
 Green heron  
 Loggerhead shrike  
 Merlin  
 Northern harrier  
 Prairie falcon  
 Rufous crowned sparrow  
 San Diego cactus wren  
 Turkey vulture  
 White tailed kite  
 Yellow warbler

##### **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS**

Coronado Island skink  
 Granite spiny lizard  
 Northern red diamond rattlesnake  
 Orange throated whiptail  
 San Diego horned lizard  
 Western pond turtle  
 Western spadefoot toad  
 Western whiptail

##### **MAMMALS**

San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit  
 San Diego desert woodrat

##### **INVERTEBRATES**

San Diego fairy shrimp

#### *Major Issues for Lake Hodges Segment*

The major issues that require consideration for management in the Lake Hodges Segment are the following, in order of priority:

1. Intense land uses and activities (edge effects) adjacent to and in covered species habitat and linkages.
2. Off-road vehicle activity.
3. Dumping, litter, and vandalism.
4. Enhancement and restoration needs.
5. Exotic (non-native), invasive plants and animals.
6. Utility, facility and road repair, construction and maintenance activities.
7. Cultural Resources

*Priority 1:*

1. Delineate the preserve boundaries along areas of the mesa tops, canyons, and slopes surrounding the development areas with markers and signs to inform the general public, residents, and other people of the boundaries of the preserve to prevent disturbance of the area. This area should be made off-limits to any activity (except where required for brush management or allowed trails), dumping, storage of materials, and other disturbances. Fencing or other protection mechanisms will only be necessary if continued disturbance by the residents (including home gardens, landscaping and play areas) of these areas is evident.
2. Allow regeneration of native habitat to continue in their present state, thus providing needed raptor foraging area. If regeneration to coastal sage or other native habitats appears to be unbalancing the need for grassland areas in the future, assess these areas for management that would maintain a grassland (preferably native) community.
3. Inventory cultural resources within the preserve area. Develop a management plan for the cultural resources that will provide for monitoring and protection. The inventory will include a record search at the South Coastal Information Center, SDSU, and an on-foot field survey. Cultural resources have been identified within the Santa Fe Valley Specific Plan. These resources, primarily prehistoric archaeological sites, have either been preserved in open space easements or subjected to data recovery programs. Other cultural resources may be located outside the Specific Plan area.

*Priority 2:*

1. Evaluate the preserve area for potential research opportunities in studying natural regeneration of native grasslands, Coastal sage scrub, and vernal pool habitat. If regeneration is not possible, pursue restoration of disturbed habitats in this area.
2. Provide educational materials and training on the MSCP and on native wildlife to local residents and public agency personnel working in the LHS area to encourage sensitive behavior towards wildlife and its habitat, and to discourage unnecessary trespassing including off-road vehicle use in sensitive areas.
3. Ensure that night lighting along development/preserve interface intrudes as little as possible on lands in the interior of the preserve.
4. Assess and prioritize the San Dieguito River Valley and Lusardi Creek areas for restoration of disturbed areas. Include existing roads and those determined not to be needed for inclusion into the trail system in the restoration assessment. Burned areas should not need restoration, but off-road use and other disturbed areas should either be restored or other steps taken to encourage regeneration. This could offer potential research opportunities.

5. On a case-by-case basis, trapping of cowbirds and eradication of bull frogs may be necessary at strategic locations, and where determined feasible to protect sensitive species from excessive predation. This management directive may be considered a Priority 1 if necessary to meet the conditions for species coverage.

### **Specific Management Policies and Directives for the San Pasqual (unincorporated) Preserve Area**

#### **Background**

##### Goals and Objectives

The optimum future condition for San Pasqual Preserve area would be a mosaic of native habitats, limited passive recreational activities that act to preserve and rejuvenate healthy natural ecosystems and processes, water quality, and the full range of native species. Grazing will be limited exclusively to areas where it can be shown to be beneficial to the Stephen's kangaroo rat (if observed), or covered species that rely on open areas to facilitate recovery of the species. Any grazing activities must be approved and closely monitored by the preserve manager.

##### Covered Species

Covered species found in the San Pasqual Preserve area include:

#### **Plants**

San Diego barrel cactus  
Wart-stemmed ceanothus

#### **Animals**

Coastal cactus wren  
California gnatcatcher  
Cooper's hawk  
Ferruginous hawk  
Golden eagle  
Least Bell's vireo  
Orange-throated whiptail  
Mountain lion  
Mule deer  
Rufous-crowned sparrow  
San Diego horned lizard  
Western bluebird  
White-faced ibis

#### ***Major Issues***

The major issues that require consideration for management in the San Pasqual Preserve Area are the following in order of priority:

1. Offsite grazing and encroachment of cattle, and activities adjacent (edge effects) to and in covered species habitat and linkages.

2. Water quality, including erosion, sedimentation, and agricultural runoff.
3. Utility, facility and road repair, construction, and maintenance activities.
4. Exotic (non-native), invasive plants and animals.
5. Enhancement and restoration needs.
6. Cultural Resources

**Boden Canyon Mitigation Bank:**

This 40-acre property (Parcel G) was acquired by the County as a mitigation bank to be used for County Public Works projects. It is located between the town of Ramona and San Pasqual Valley, about 10 miles east of the San Diego Wild Animal Park. It is part of a 2,068-acre property that has been purchased by the County and the City of San Diego, and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) for the San Dieguito River Park. The County mitigation bank has an approved management plan.

Boden Canyon is composed of eight habitat types, including Coastal sage scrub, oak riparian vegetation, coast live oak woodland, Engelmann oak woodland, perennial native grassland, mixed chaparral, chamise chaparral, and non-native grassland. This area is important because it, together with approximately 800 acres owned by the City of San Diego in Boden Canyon, provides a diverse, reasonably undisturbed block of contiguous habitat that connects to U.S. Forest Service lands east of the MSCP area.

*Priority 1:*

1. Protection of Oak riparian, coastal sage scrub and other upland habitats from disturbance throughout this portion of the valley (e.g. Boden Canyon preserve) will require periodic monitoring to ensure no disturbance is occurring. If disturbance occurs, consider implement protective measures.
2. Allow regeneration of native habitat to continue in their present state, thus providing needed raptor foraging area. If regeneration to coastal sage or other native habitats appears to be unbalancing the need for grassland areas in the future, or if Stephen's kangaroo rat is observed, it may be determined that these areas of management should maintain a grassland (preferably native) community.
3. Any equestrian activities should occur only on existing trails or roads or be placed approximately 300-500 feet away from riparian habitats. Cowbird trapping should be conducted in the vicinity of riparian systems.
4. Preserve the existing wildlife corridor width of approximately 800 feet along Santa Ysabel Creek and Santa Maria Creek as a connection between the floodplain and areas with upland habitat to ensure maintenance of the corridor's width through agreements with the City of San Diego and CDFG as appropriate.
5. Establish a riparian corridor and provide fencing along the length of Santa Maria Creek adjacent to grazing leases to exclude livestock from entering and disturbing habitat areas.
6. Inventory cultural resources within the preserve area. The inventory will include a record search at the South Coastal Information Center, SDSU, and an on-foot field survey. Develop a management plan for the cultural resources which will provide for monitoring and protection.

*Priority 2:*

1. Evaluate the preserve area for potential research opportunities in studying natural regeneration of native grasslands, Coastal sage scrub, and vernal pool habitat. If regeneration is not possible, pursue restoration of disturbed habitats in this area. Generally in most areas of the preserve, including creeks and tributaries, riparian vegetation will naturally regenerate and active restoration will not be needed except for locations where determined necessary by preserve managers. Where enhancement is considered, use only local native species.
2. Restore the area of Santa Maria Creek that lies within the preserve to strengthen the wildlife connection. When/if the uses in this area change, recognize and incorporate both the constraints of the floodplain and the wildlife corridor into any future lease(s) as appropriate.
3. Where the river corridor and jurisdictional boundary narrows near the eastern end of the valley, provide periodic monitoring to ensure maintenance of a continuous regional wildlife corridor with connections made to offsite open space lands wherever possible. If the land uses in this area south of the river constrain the corridor width, then agreements or negotiations may be necessary to assure adequate width, or other options may need to be considered.
4. In the far eastern portions of the valley, through the tree groves, the riparian connection is extremely narrow. Where the river cuts through the groves, limit efforts to control the natural ecological processes. Maintain the groves without fencing and allow unrestricted wildlife movement through the groves. Preserve the existing riparian corridor along Santa Ysabel Creek for use as a wildlife connection to Pamo Valley and evaluate a widening if there is a change in agricultural use that further constrains the corridor.

**South County Segment**

The South County Segment (SCS) includes about 82,767 acres within the County jurisdiction in the southwest section of the County. The planning area generally includes lands south of Jamacha Boulevard and South Bay Parkway, including the lower drainage basins of the Sweetwater, Otay, and the Tijuana Rivers. On the southwest, the plan includes the westernmost parcel of Otay Ranch south of Telegraph Canyon Road and extends south to the International Border south and east of Otay Lakes. To the northeast, the plan includes State, County, and other parcels on McGinty Mountain. On the east, the plan covers substantial areas south of Campo Road (State Route 94), excluding the rural communities of Jamul and Dulzura. In the extreme southeast, the plan includes Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and California Department of Forestry lands in the San Ysidro Mountains (Otay Mountain), and the lower western slopes of Tecate Mountain; it also includes BLM parcels southeast of Dulzura and north of State Route 94.

The plan includes two outlying areas on McGinty Mountain to the north and BLM lands north of Highway 94 and east of Dulzura (Engineer Springs, White Mountain).

The SCS presently covers four private development plans: Otay Ranch, Hidden Valley Estates, Pointe San Diego, and parts of Loma del Sol. All of these projects have been designed with natural open space areas with approved management plans, and make up the bulk of the private preserved areas in the SCS.

The SCS also includes lands owned by non-governmental entities, such as The Nature Conservancy (TNC) lands on McGinty Mountain, and private mitigation banks including those managed by The Environmental Trust (TET) on McGinty Mountain, O'Neal Canyon and Marron Valley.

The SCS also includes public lands with natural open space areas pledged for conservation purposes by the Federal BLM and Fish and Wildlife Service, State of California Department of Forestry and Department of Fish and Game, the City of San Diego, and the County of San Diego, including Rancho San Diego purchased by the County, CalTrans, and San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and is now part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Other public agencies, including the Sweetwater Authority, the Otay Municipal Water District have prepared plans. At this time, the remaining water agencies are preparing their conservation plans, and have yet to be approved. These habitat plans will substantially add to the presently proposed preserve area extent and biological function.

The preserve area presently includes about 48,240 acres. The native vegetation of the South County Segment is dominated by Coastal sage scrub (19,542 acres) Chaparral (18,106 acres) vegetation. Chaparral/coastal sage scrub mix comprises about 637 acres of preserve land. Additionally, the largest stands of Southern cypress woodland (5,320 acres) in the United States exist on the slopes of Otay and Tecate Peaks in the South County Segment. Grasslands comprise about 1,172 acres; greater than 200 acres of the following habitats fall within the preserve area: Coast live oak riparian forest, Riparian forest, Oak woodlands, and disturbed habitats. The remaining habitats in the preserve are less than 200 acres each.

### **Existing Land Uses within the South County Segment**

Land uses within the proposed covered projects of the SCS are generally vacant and/or used for agriculture (generally groves and grazing). The SCS covers parts of the following County planning areas: Crest-Dehesa-Harbison Canyon-Granite Hills Community Plan, Jamul-Dulzura Community Plan, Sweetwater Community Plan, and Otay Subregional Planning Area.

Existing residential uses in the area include generally urban densities adjacent to the Cities of Chula Vista and San Diego to the west; in the communities of Spring Valley and Casa de Oro (urban to rural densities) to the north; the rural communities of Jamul and Dulzura lie along Highway 94 to the east. The developing commercial/industrial land uses on Otay Mesa lie to the west along the International Boundary.

Much of the SCS is in private ownership. The largest area of land managed for resource conservation is located on Otay Mountain and is managed by the Federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The City of San Diego owns land around the Upper and Lower Otay Reservoirs and Marron Valley. The majority of this land is managed as a regional park by the County Department of Parks and Recreation.

### **Otay Ranch**

Resource Management Plan: Part of the approval of General Plan Amendment for Otay Ranch included approval of the Phase I Resource Management Plan (RMP). This is a comprehensive planning document that addresses the preservation, enhancement, and management of sensitive natural and cultural resources on the 22,899-acre Otay Ranch property.

The goal of the RMP is establishment and management of an open space system that will become a permanent Management Preserve dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the multiple resources present on Otay Ranch. The RMP is intended to be implemented as part of the overall integrated planning approach for Otay Ranch. A series of goals, objectives, policies and standards in the RMP address the resource protection issues.

Biogeography/Conservation Issues: The approved Resource Management Plan for Otay Ranch is 11,375 acres. Together with the 1,166 acres of Limited Development Areas, a total of 12,541 acres are anticipated to be preserved in open space on Otay Ranch.

Specific Project Requirements. Allowable uses for areas adjacent to the preserve are discussed in Policies 7.1-7.3 of the Otay Ranch RMP. The edge of the preserve is defined as a strip of land 100 feet wide that surrounds the perimeter of the Management Preserve.

### **Overall Management Policies & Directives for the South County Segment for Otay Mesa, Otay Valley, and Otay Mountain not covered by the Otay Ranch RMP**

The following general management directives apply to the Otay Mesa area as a whole; long-range policy documents pertinent to the area have been reviewed and incorporated by reference. For example, the Otay Ranch has an approved Resource Management Plan. This specific area of South County Segment is subject to the conditions of said plan.

The Otay Ranch Resource Management Plan covering this area designates the entire Otay River Valley as open space. Goals within the plan include conserving the Otay River Valley and floodplain as open space and protecting sensitive habitat areas from disruption.

The County of San Diego MSCP Subarea Plan, South County Segment, contains lists and maps of vernal pools and sensitive species, as well as descriptions of native vegetation, wildlife, and the ecological significance of the Otay Mesa area.

### **County of San Diego East Mesa Detention Facility**

The East Mesa Detention Facility site is located south of Lower Otay Lake, north of O'Neal Canyon, and north east of the Donovan State Prison facility site, the lower southwest slopes of the San Ysidro Mountains. The site encompasses approximately 524 acres. Approximately 120 acres have been set aside for open space. Additional lands will be retained as open space as mitigation for the future phases of development as depicted on the South County Segment plan maps.

Mitigation for impacts for the County of San Diego East Mesa Detention Facility required 120 acres north and adjacent to the site identified for open space purposes.

### ***Goals and Objectives***

The Otay Mesa area consists primarily of a large mesa, with slopes and deep canyons draining into the Otay River Valley or towards Mexico. One linkage connects habitat areas south to north across Otay Mesa Road. In spite of and due to the constraints on this land, the optimum future condition

envisioned for the Otay Mesa area is a network of open and relatively undisturbed canyons containing a full ensemble of native species which provide functional wildlife habitat and movement capability. Integrated into the canyon network will be recreational trails and Border Patrol access roads.

### Covered Species

Covered species in this area include:

#### Plants

California orcutt grass  
Coast barrel cactus  
Otay Mesa mint  
Otay tarplant  
Orcutt's bird's beak  
Orcutt's brodiaea  
Prostrate navarretia  
San Diego goldenstar  
San Diego thorn- mint  
Small-leaved rose  
Snake cholla  
Variegated dudleya  
San Diego button-celery

#### Animals

Burrowing owl  
California gnatcatcher  
Cactus wren  
Cooper's hawk  
Golden eagle  
Northern harrier  
Orange-throated whiptail  
Peregrine falcon  
Riverside fairy shrimp  
San Diego fairy shrimp  
San Diego horned lizard

### *Major Issues*

The major issues that require consideration for management in the Otay Mesa area are the following, in order of priority:

1. Intense land uses (including the Sheriff's firing range, and edge effects) and activities adjacent to and in covered species habitat and linkages.
2. Off-road vehicle activity.
3. Dumping, litter, and vandalism.
4. Enhancement and restoration needs.
5. Exotic (non-native), invasive plants and animals.
6. Illegal immigration and Border Patrol activities.
7. Utility, facility and road repair, construction (i.e. SR 125) and maintenance activities.
8. Cultural Resources

#### *Priority 1:*

1. No unauthorized motorized vehicles except Border Patrol, preserve managers, maintenance personnel or emergency vehicles will be allowed on any trails or off-trail in the preserve. The Border Patrol should restrict vehicle use to the existing access roads as much as feasible, to avoid disturbance of habitat. Continuous coordination with the Border Patrol will be necessary to ensure continued awareness of the preserve and cooperation in maintenance. The presence of the Border Patrol in this area should help to make the preserve safer for

visitors. If possible, improve coordination with the Border Patrol to aid in the identification and prevention of vandalism, off-road vehicle use, dumping, and other disturbances to habitat.

2. Identify narrow endemics and critical populations in the preserve so that these areas can be avoided and monitored. Surveys should occur in the spring of the year or the appropriate season as determined by the protocols of the species being surveyed. These areas will prohibit any building or recreational activities.
3. Remove all trash, hazardous materials, and vehicles from the preserve prior to transfer from private into public ownership and/or management. If hazardous materials remain, these areas should be signed to indicate their locations and made off-limits to people.
4. Inventory vernal pool areas within the Otay Mesa area for sensitive and target species where not previously or recently done, and assess for enhancement/restoration needs or opportunities, general status, and potential threats.
5. Protect succulents from trampling and poaching of plants. Provide barriers as appropriate to this area that accommodate wildlife movement through established wildlife corridors.
6. Protect and manage areas with concentrations of *Plantago erecta* and owls clover that may provide a food source for the Quino checkerspot.
7. Regular enforcement patrols may be necessary in the canyons (including Poggi, Johnson, O'Neal) and the Otay River valley and its' tributaries to prevent vandalism, poaching, and off-road vehicle activity.
8. Delineate the preserve boundaries along areas of the mesa and slopes surrounding Donovan State Prison and the County Bailey Detention Facility with markers and signs to inform correctional facility employees, contractors, and other people of the boundaries of the preserve to prevent disturbance of the area. This area should be made off-limits to illegal tilling of the mesas (except where required for brush management), dumping, storage of materials, and other disturbances. Fencing or other protection mechanisms will only be necessary if continued disturbance (including horse and cattle grazing) of these areas is evident.
9. Retain mesa areas which are currently non-native grasslands in order to allow regeneration or continue in their present state, thus providing needed raptor foraging area. If regeneration to coastal sage or other native habitats appears to be unbalancing the need for grassland areas in the future, assess these areas for management that would maintain a grassland (preferably native) community.
10. Inventory cultural resources within the preserve area. The inventory will include a record search at the South Coastal Information Center, SDSU, and an on-foot field survey. Develop a management plan for the cultural resources, which will provide for monitoring and protection.
11. Vernal pool assessments are required and therefore should be Priority 1. Assess vernal pool areas proposed for development (e.g. approved development projects or proposed regional transportation facilities such as State Routes 905 and 125) for translocation of sensitive plants and soils containing seedbanks of sensitive flora and fauna. Include in mitigation programs arrangements for proper timing of soil and plant removal, proper storage if necessary, and appropriate timing of enhancement/restoration efforts, including translocation.

*Priority 2:*

1. Assess the need for continued use of the existing access roads along the mesa tops, providing access to the bottom of Otay River Valley, its' tributaries and bordering canyons. Utilize to the extent possible utility maintenance and Border Patrol access roads as trail systems. Restore any roads determined not to be necessary to serve these functions, and any duplicate roads to the appropriate local native habitat(s).
2. Restoration of habitats may require topsoil importation, which could be provided from the surrounding development areas at the time of grading, as these soils would also contain the appropriate local seedbank.
3. Evaluate the mesa west of the Donovan State Prison and Bailey Detention Facility for potential research opportunities in studying natural regeneration of native grasslands, Coastal sage scrub, and vernal pool habitat. If regeneration is not possible, pursue restoration of disturbed habitats in this area.
4. Install barriers and signage along Salt Creek Canyon where agriculture or development abuts the preserve.
5. Provide educational materials and training on the MSCP and on native wildlife to Border Patrol agents and other public agency personnel working in the Otay Mesa border area to encourage sensitive behavior towards wildlife and its habitat, and to discourage unnecessary off-road vehicle use in sensitive areas.
6. Insure that if night lighting along the border is proposed in the future, that the lighting intrudes as little as possible on lands in the interior of the preserve.
7. Assess and prioritize the Poggi, Johnson and O'Neal Canyon areas for restoration of disturbed areas. Include existing roads and those determined not to be needed for Border Patrol activities in the restoration assessment. Burned areas should not need restoration, but off-road use and other disturbed areas should either be restored or other steps taken to encourage regeneration. This could offer potential research opportunities.

**Specific Management Policies and Directives for the Otay River Valley not covered by the Otay Ranch RMP****Background****Otay Valley Regional Park Plan (County Jurisdiction Lands)**

The Otay Valley Regional Focused Park Concept Planning Area, including the Otay River Valley and all drainages into the valley west of the Otay Reservoirs, is located in the southern portion of San Diego County, and four miles north of the United States/Mexico International Border. The Otay Valley Regional Park (OVRP) is being planned through a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JEPA) between the County of San Diego, the City of San Diego and the City of Chula Vista. The park will fulfill the need to provide a mix of active and passive recreational activities while protecting environmentally sensitive areas, protecting cultural and scenic resources, and encouraging compatible agricultural uses in the park.

The proposed regional trail system is intended to link to the Bayshore Bikepath to the west and serve as a continuing link to regional trails further east. Trails within the Otay River Valley will utilize existing fire and utility roads wherever possible in order to minimize impacts.

In addition, the Otay Ranch Resource Management Plan (RMP), Phase I calls for a nature interpretive center to be located within the open space preserve on the Otay Ranch.

The part of the proposed park in County jurisdiction lies primarily east of Otay Valley Road and extends to the east side of the MSCP boundary, except for lands in the City of Chula Vista on the west side of Lower Otay Reservoir. The County jurisdiction includes the City of San Diego owned lands around the reservoir, which is part of the City's Cornerstone Lands Conservation Bank. The lands in County jurisdiction are primarily in open space, riparian and disturbed riparian uses, but include a rock quarry and gun club.

#### Otay Valley Regional Park Plan (County Jurisdiction Lands)

At present, a conceptual plan considered by the JEPAC Policy Committee for the park preliminarily identifies a number of recreational facilities. At present, the exact location of these recreational facilities within the park is not known. In addition to the potential recreational facilities, other facilities, listed below may be located within the river park boundary.

- a. City of San Diego Clean Water Program reclamation facility (located in the western end of the County jurisdiction lands, within the river valley (see Lettieri-McIntyre, 1994).
- b. Proposed roads crossing the river: a) Paseo Ranchero; b) La Media Road; c) State Route 125; and d) Alta Road.
- c. Other local roads and trails within the park for local access.
- d. Existing rock quarry (about 135 acres) on Rock Mountain, just east of Otay Valley Road; the quarry operation is expected to continue for about the next 50 years, after which the site may be used for active recreation.
- e. The Gun Club/Bird Ranch: This area and the area immediately east (about 225 acres) has been a gun club and ranch and would not be used for habitat management purposes under the conceptual park plan.
- f. The site for the 400 acres of active recreation in Otay Ranch has been identified for the beach areas on both sides of the Otay River.
- g. Lower Otay County Park (about 70 acres): an existing but closed camp ground; to be refurbished.
- h. The existing County Air Park, located east of Otay Reservoir, south of Otay Lakes Road: used as a landing field and observation area for gliders and parachutists (about 60 acres).
- i. The Conceptual Park plan also includes the George F. Bailey Detention facility and the 120-acre mitigation/open space area located to the north of the facility.

#### *Goals and Objectives*

The optimum future condition for the Otay River Valley will be a fairly unrestricted floodplain containing natural riparian and wetland habitats interspersed with both active and passive recreational areas, and edged by both natural slopes and adjacent developed areas. Although the valley is narrow and defined, all future uses within the area would strive to maintain and enhance healthy natural processes and provide continuous native habitats for wildlife movement and sensitive species conservation, while providing recreational opportunities and an improved quality of life and environment for local residents Covered Species

Covered species in the Otay River Valley include:

Plants

California orcutt grass  
Coast barrel cactus  
Otay Mesa mint  
Otay tarplant  
Orcutt's bird's beak  
Orcutt's brodiaea  
Prostrate navarretia  
San Diego goldenstar  
San Diego thorn- mint  
Small-leaved rose  
Snake cholla  
Variegated dudleya  
San Diego button-celery

Animals

Burrowing owl  
California gnatcatcher  
Cactus wren  
Cooper's hawk  
Golden eagle  
Northern harrier  
Orange-throated whiptail  
Peregrine falcon  
Riverside fairy shrimp  
San Diego fairy shrimp  
San Diego horned lizard

In addition, various raptors, including the northern harrier, use the valley for foraging and nesting.

*Major Issues*

The major issues that require consideration for management in the Otay River Valley, based on the existing conditions are the following, in order of priority:

1. Intense land uses and activities (edge effects) adjacent to and in covered species habitat.
2. Dumping, litter, and vandalism.
3. Itinerant living quarters.
4. Mining, excavation, and related processing activities.
5. Exotic (non-native), invasive plants and animals.
6. Enhancement and restoration needs.
7. Water quality.
8. Utility, facility and road repair, construction, and maintenance activities.
9. Cultural Resources.

*Priority 1:*

1. Coordinate an invasive non-native plant removal program with the City of Chula Vista or in conjunction with a regional MSCP management program in order for effective, long-term management of this problem. In areas with least Bell's vireos, the removal program should be limited to the period between mid-September and mid-March of each year.
2. Identify narrow endemics and critical populations in the preserve so that these areas can be avoided and monitored. Surveys should occur in the spring of the year or the appropriate season as determined by the protocols of the species being surveyed. These areas will prohibit any building or recreational activities.
3. In the long-term, allow the riparian and wetland habitats in the valley to regenerate, except where active restoration is specified as a result of monitoring or for mitigation purposes. In the future, assess the riparian areas for management changes and needs, which could offer future research opportunities.

4. No unauthorized motorized vehicles except Border Patrol, preserve managers, maintenance personnel or emergency vehicles will be allowed on any trails or off-trail in the preserve. The Border Patrol should restrict vehicle use to the existing access roads as much as feasible, to avoid disturbance of habitat. Continuous coordination with the Border Patrol will be necessary to ensure continued awareness of the preserve and cooperation in maintenance. The presence of the Border Patrol in this area should help to make the preserve safer for visitors. If possible, improve coordination with the Border Patrol to aid in the identification and prevention of vandalism, off-road vehicle use, dumping, and other disturbances to habitat.
5. Remove all trash, hazardous materials, and vehicles from the preserve prior to transfer from private into public ownership and/or management. If hazardous materials remain, these areas should be signed to indicate their locations and made off-limits to people.
6. Inventory vernal pool areas within the Otay Mesa area for sensitive and target species where not previously or recently done, and assess for enhancement/restoration needs or opportunities, general status, and potential threats.
7. Protect succulents from trampling and poaching of plants. Provide barriers as appropriate to this area that accommodate wildlife movement through established wildlife corridors.
8. Protect and manage areas with concentrations of *Plantago erecta* and owls clover that may provide a food source for the Quino checkerspot.
9. Regular enforcement patrols may be necessary in the canyons (including Poggi, Johnson, O'Neal) and the Otay River valley and its' tributaries to prevent vandalism, poaching, and off-road vehicle activity.
10. Delineate the preserve boundaries along areas of the mesa and slopes surrounding Donovan State Prison and the County Bailey Detention Facility with markers and signs to inform correctional facility employees, contractors, and other people of the boundaries of the preserve to prevent disturbance of the area. This area should be made off-limits to illegal tilling of the mesas (except where required for brush management), dumping, storage of materials, and other disturbances. Fencing or other protection mechanisms will only be necessary if continued disturbance (including horse and cattle grazing) of these areas is evident.
11. Retain mesa areas which are currently non-native grasslands in order to allow regeneration or continue in their present state, thus providing needed raptor foraging area. If regeneration to coastal sage or other native habitats appears to be unbalancing the need for grassland areas in the future, assess these areas for management that would maintain a grassland (preferably native) community.
12. Inventory cultural resources within the preserve area. The inventory will include a record search at the South Coastal Information Center, SDSU, and an on-foot field survey. Develop a management plan for the cultural resources which will provide for monitoring and protection. Some of the cultural resources within this preserve will be within Otay Valley Regional Park. One archaeological site within the preserve has been determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, and will be appropriate for interpretive programming.

*Priority 2:*

1. Assess vernal pool areas proposed for development (e.g. approved development projects or proposed regional transportation facilities such as State Routes 905 and 125) for transplantation of sensitive plants and soils containing seedbanks of sensitive flora and fauna. Include in mitigation programs arrangements for proper timing of soil and plant removal, proper storage if necessary, and appropriate timing of enhancement/restoration efforts, including transplantation.
2. Assess the need for continued use of the existing access roads along the mesa tops, providing access to the bottom of Otay River Valley, its' tributaries and bordering canyons. Utilize to the extent possible utility maintenance and Border Patrol access roads as trail systems. Restore any roads determined not to be necessary to serve these functions, and any duplicate roads to the appropriate local native habitat(s).
3. Restoration of habitats may require topsoil importation which could be provided from the surrounding development areas at the time of grading, as these soils would also contain the appropriate local seedbank.
4. Evaluate the mesa west of the Donovan State Prison and Bailey Detention Facility for potential research opportunities in studying natural regeneration of native grasslands, Coastal sage scrub, and vernal pool habitat. If regeneration is not possible, pursue restoration of disturbed habitats in this area.
5. Install barriers and signage along Salt Creek Canyon where agriculture or development abuts the preserve.
6. Provide educational materials and training on the MSCP and on native wildlife to Border Patrol agents and other public agency personnel working in the Otay Mesa border area to encourage sensitive behavior towards wildlife and its habitat, and to discourage unnecessary off-road vehicle use in sensitive areas.
7. Insure that night lighting intrudes as little as possible on lands in the interior of the preserve.
8. Assess and prioritize the Poggi, Johnson and O'Neal Canyon areas for restoration of disturbed areas. Include existing roads and those determined not to be needed for Border Patrol activities in the restoration assessment. Burned areas should not need restoration, but off-road use and other disturbed areas should either be restored or other steps taken to encourage regeneration. This could offer potential research opportunities.

***County of San Diego BLM/Lower Otay Reservoir Site***

This 200-acre property (APN 647-130-12) is presently owned by BLM but the County of San Diego manages the site for conservation purposes and is obtaining a patent on the property. The property will be managed by the County Department of Parks and Recreation for passive recreation and natural resource conservation."

Covered species include:

Plants

California orcutt grass  
Coast barrel cactus

Animals

Burrowing owl  
California gnatcatcher

Otay Mesa mint	Cactus wren
Otay tarplant	Cooper's hawk
Orcutt's bird's beak	Golden eagle
Orcutt's brodiaea	Northern harrier
Prostrate navarretia	Orange-throated whiptail
San Diego goldenstar	Peregrine falcon
San Diego thorn- mint	Riverside fairy shrimp
Small-leaved rose	San Diego fairy shrimp
Snake cholla	San Diego horned lizard
Variegated dudleya	
San Diego button-celery	

### *Major Issues*

The major issues that require consideration for management in the Otay Reservoir, based on the existing conditions are the following, in order of priority:

1. Intense land uses and activities (edge effects) adjacent to and in covered species habitat.
2. Dumping, litter, and vandalism.
3. Itinerant living quarters.
4. Exotic (non-native), invasive plants and animals.
5. Enhancement and restoration needs.
6. Water quality.
7. Utility, facility and road repair, construction, and maintenance activities.
8. Cultural Resources.

### *Priority 1:*

1. Coordinate an invasive non-native plant removal program with BLM or in conjunction with a regional MSCP management program in order for effective, long-term management of this problem. In areas with least Bell's vireos, the removal program should be limited to the period between mid-September and mid-March of each year.
2. Identify narrow endemics and critical populations in the preserve so that these areas can be avoided and monitored. Surveys should occur in the spring of the year or the appropriate season as determined by the protocols of the species being surveyed. These areas will prohibit any building or recreational activities.
3. In the long-term, allow the riparian and wetland habitats in the valley to regenerate. In the future, assess the riparian areas for management changes and needs which could offer future research opportunities.
4. No unauthorized motorized vehicles except Border Patrol, preserve managers, maintenance personnel or emergency vehicles will be allowed on any trails or off-trail. The Border Patrol should restrict vehicle use to the existing access roads as much as feasible, to avoid disturbance of habitat. Continuous coordination with the Border Patrol will be necessary to ensure continued awareness of the preserve and cooperation in maintenance. The presence of the Border Patrol in this area should help to make the preserve safer for visitors. If possible, improve coordination with the Border Patrol to aid in the identification and prevention of vandalism, off-road vehicle use, dumping, and other disturbances to habitat.

5. Remove all trash, hazardous materials, and vehicles from the preserve prior to transfer from private into public ownership and/or management. If hazardous materials remain, these areas should be signed to indicate their locations and made off-limits to people.
6. Inventory vernal pool areas within the Otay Mesa area for sensitive and target species where not previously or recently done, and assess for enhancement/restoration needs or opportunities, general status, and potential threats.
7. Protect succulents from trampling and poaching of plants. Provide barriers as appropriate to this area that accommodate wildlife movement through established wildlife corridors.
8. Protect areas with concentrations of *Plantago erecta* and owls clover that may provide a food source for the Quino checkerspot.
9. Retain mesa areas which are currently non-native grasslands in order to allow regeneration or continue in their present state, thus providing needed raptor foraging area. If regeneration to coastal sage or other native habitats appears to be unbalancing the need for grassland areas in the future, assess these areas for management that would maintain a grassland (preferably native) community.
10. Inventory cultural resources within the preserve area. The inventory will include a record search at the South Coastal Information Center, SDSU, and an on-foot field survey. Develop a management plan for the cultural resources which will provide for monitoring and protection. Some of the cultural resources within this preserve will be within Otay Valley Regional Park. This preserve includes historic cultural resources associated with early settlement in Otay Valley, and with construction of the dam at Lower Otay Reservoir.

*Priority 2:*

1. Assess the need for continued use of the existing access roads along the mesa tops, providing access to the bottom of Otay River Valley, its' tributaries and bordering canyons. Utilize to the extent possible utility maintenance and Border Patrol access roads as trail systems. Restore any roads determined not to be necessary to serve these functions, and any duplicate roads to the appropriate local native habitat(s).
2. Provide educational materials and training on the MSCP and on native wildlife to Border Patrol agents and other public agency personnel working in the Otay Mesa border area to encourage sensitive behavior towards wildlife and its habitat, and to discourage unnecessary off-road vehicle use in sensitive areas.
3. Insure that night lighting intrudes as little as possible on lands in the interior of the preserve.

***County of San Diego McGinty Mountain Park***

This 20.34-acre parcel is adjacent to The Nature Conservancy holdings south of McGinty Mountain. It contains Coastal sage scrub and Chaparral vegetation communities and was acquired for natural resources protection (100%).

Covered species include:

Plants

Animals

San Diego thorn-mint	arroyo southwestern toad
San Diego ambrosia	southwestern pond turtle
Encinitas baccharis	San Diego horned lizard
Orcutt's brodiaea	orange-throated whiptail
dense reed grass	bald eagle
slender-pod jewelflower	northern harrier
Lakeside ceanothus	Cooper's hawk
wart-stemmed ceanothus	ferruginous hawk
Palmer's ericameria	golden eagle
San Diego barrel cactus	coastal cactus wren
felt-leaved monardella	California gnatcatcher
willowy monardella	western bluebird
San Diego goldenstar	least Bell's vireo
Dehesa bear-grass	California rufous-crowned sparrow
San Miguel savory	mountain lion
Gander's butterweed	southern mule deer
narrow-leaved nightshade	
Parry's tetradlea	

### *Major Issues*

The major issues that require consideration for management in the McGinty Mountain area, based on the existing conditions are the following, in order of priority:

1. Intense land uses and activities adjacent to and in covered species habitat.
2. Dumping, litter, and vandalism.
3. Itinerant living quarters.
4. Mining, excavation, and related processing activities.
5. Exotic (non-native), invasive plants and animals.
6. Enhancement and restoration needs.
7. Water quality.
8. Utility, facility and road repair, construction, and maintenance activities.
9. Cultural Resources

### *Priority 1:*

1. Coordinate an invasive non-native plant removal program with BLM, CDFG or in conjunction with a regional MSCP management program in order for effective, long-term management of this problem. In areas with least Bell's vireos, the removal program should be limited to the period between mid-September and mid-March of each year.
2. Identify narrow endemics and critical populations in the preserve so that these areas can be avoided and monitored. Surveys should occur in the spring of the year or the appropriate season as determined by the protocols of the species being surveyed. These areas will prohibit any building or recreational activities.
3. Evaluate the preserve area for potential research opportunities in studying natural regeneration of native grasslands, Coastal sage scrub, and vernal pool habitat. If regeneration

- is not possible, pursue restoration of disturbed habitats in this area.
4. Provide educational materials and training on the MSCP and on native wildlife to local residents and public agency personnel working in the area to encourage sensitive behavior towards wildlife and its habitat, and to discourage unnecessary trespassing including off-road vehicle use in sensitive areas.
  5. Insure that night lighting along development/preserve interface intrudes as little as possible on lands in the interior of the preserve.
  6. Assess and prioritize McGinty Mountain for restoration of disturbed areas. Include existing roads and those determined not to be needed for inclusion into the trail system in the restoration assessment. Burned areas should not need restoration, but off-road use and other disturbed areas should either be restored or other steps taken to encourage regeneration. This could offer potential research opportunities.
  7. Inventory cultural resources within the preserve area. The inventory will include a record search at the South Coastal Information Center, SDSU, and an on-foot field survey. Develop a management plan for the cultural resources, which will provide for monitoring and protection. The preserve includes the historic Peg Leg Mine, which could be appropriate for interpretive programming.

### ***County of San Diego Sweetwater Regional Park***

Sweetwater Regional Park is located in the Sweetwater River Valley between the Sweetwater Reservoir on the east and I-805 on the east in the Bonita/Sunnyside area (San Diego County Parks and Recreation Department, 1989). The eastern third occupies the high, hilly ground between the reservoir and the valley below. The western two-thirds lies within the 100-year floodplain of the Sweetwater River. The County jurisdiction part of the park includes about 515 acres.

Vegetative cover on the site includes the following: about 90 acres of Coastal sage scrub, 40 acres of Maritime succulent scrub, 115 acres of Southern willow scrub, 170 acres of non-native grasslands, and about 100 acres of urban uses, including mining and intensive agriculture.

Existing park uses include several houses, an equestrian center, limited retail commercial, a golf driving range, a pine tree nursery, abandoned dairy buildings, trails and a campground.

Covered species include:

#### Plants

San Diego thorn-mint  
 San Diego ambrosia  
 Encinitas baccharis  
 Orcutt's brodiaea  
 dense reed grass  
 slender-pod jewelflower  
 Lakeside ceanothus  
 wart-stemmed ceanothus  
 Palmer's ericameria  
 San Diego barrel cactus

#### Animals

arroyo southwestern toad  
 southwestern pond turtle  
 San Diego horned lizard  
 orange-throated whiptail  
 bald eagle  
 northern harrier  
 Cooper's hawk  
 ferruginous hawk  
 golden eagle  
 coastal cactus wren

felt-leaved monardella  
willow monardella  
San Diego goldenstar  
Dehesa bear-grass  
San Miguel savory  
Gander's butterweed  
narrow-leaved nightshade  
Parry's tetracoccus

California gnatcatcher  
western bluebird  
least Bell's vireo  
California rufous-crowned sparrow  
mountain lion  
southern mule deer

### *Major Issues*

The major issues that require consideration for management in the area, based on the existing conditions are the following, in order of priority:

1. Intense land uses and activities adjacent to and in covered species habitat.
2. Dumping, litter, and vandalism.
3. Itinerant living quarters.
4. Mining, excavation, and related processing activities.
5. Exotic (non-native), invasive plants and animals.
6. Enhancement and restoration needs.
7. Water quality.
8. Utility, facility and road repair, construction, and maintenance activities.
9. Cultural Resources.

### *Priority 1:*

1. Coordinate an invasive non-native plant removal program with a regional MSCP management program in order for effective, long-term management of this problem. In areas with least Bell's vireos, the removal program should be limited to the period between mid-September and mid-March of each year.
2. Identify narrow endemics and critical populations in the preserve so that these areas can be avoided and monitored. Surveys should occur in the spring of the year or the appropriate season as determined by the protocols of the species being surveyed. These areas will prohibit any building or recreational activities.
3. Evaluate the preserve area for potential research opportunities in studying natural regeneration of native grasslands, Coastal sage scrub, and vernal pool habitat. If regeneration is not possible, pursue restoration of disturbed habitats in this area.
4. Provide educational materials and training on the MSCP and on native wildlife to local residents and public agency personnel working in the area to encourage sensitive behavior towards wildlife and its habitat, and to discourage unnecessary trespassing including off-road vehicle use in sensitive areas.
5. Insure that night lighting along development/preserve interface intrudes as little as possible on lands in the interior of the preserve.
6. Assess and prioritize areas of the Sweetwater Regional Park for restoration of disturbed areas. Include existing roads and those determined not to be needed for inclusion into the trail system in the restoration assessment. Burned areas should not need restoration, but off-road use and other disturbed areas should either be restored or other steps taken to encourage

regeneration. This could offer potential research opportunities.

7. Inventory cultural resources within the preserve area. The inventory will include a record search at the South Coastal Information Center, SDSU, and an on-foot field survey. Develop a management plan for the cultural resources, which will provide for monitoring and protection.

#### ***Resolution Trust Corporation/Rancho San Diego Mitigation***

#### ***Bank***

The County and other agencies have acquired approximately 1,853 acres of land in the Valley de Oro Community Planning Area, previously owned by the Resolution Trust Corporation. This property, the undeveloped part of the Rancho San Diego Specific Plan, is located south of the intersection of State Route 94/Campo Road and Jamacha Road.

The site supports 1,428 acres of CSS habitat and approximately 181 acres of riparian woodland and includes other vegetation communities: Southern mixed chaparral, Coast live oak woodland, Engelmann oak woodland, scrub, freshwater marsh, and native grassland. The site may serve, initially, as a mitigation area for a number of public projects. These lands are now part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National.

#### ***Environmental Land Solutions/The Environmental Trust Properties***

The Environmental Trust (TET) has two mitigation banks within the South County NCCP planning area: Marron Valley Mitigation Preserve and O'Neal Canyon and southerly foothills corridor.

1. Marron Valley Mitigation Preserve consists of 561 acres located just to the east of Otay Mountain and is surrounded the BLM Wildlife Study Area and the City of San Diego Marron cornerstone lands.

Regional vegetation coverage at the Marron Valley site includes primarily (Interior) Sage scrub and Chaparral.

2. O'Neal Canyon and Southerly Foothills Corridor is currently about 600 acres abutting the BLM "Otay Wilderness Study Preserve" (north and south), and south of Lower Otay Lake and the County jail, and approximately north of the International Border, on the western flanks of the San Ysidro Mountains. Resources include: 217.8 acres of Diegan coastal sage scrub; 11 acres of maritime succulent scrub; 8.8 acres of Southern willow riparian scrub; 1.2 acres of California native grassland; 0.5 acres of Engelmann oak woodland; 378.5 acres of Tecate cypress woodland; 53.5 acres of Southern mixed chaparral; 36.6 acres of Chamise chaparral; 10.4 acres of Cismontane alkali wetlands; 1.4 acres freshwater marsh; and 2.7 acres of rock outcrops/cliffs.

#### **Other Preserve Areas Within the South County Segment Planning Area**

Each of the following preserves either have approved plans or will prepare a management plan that will substantially conform to the general guidelines of this plan.

### ***The Nature Conservancy Lands on McGinty Mountain***

These parcels are owned in fee title by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and total 573 acres. The northerly parcels intertwine with California Department of Fish and Game and The Environmental Trust mitigation bank parcels on the top and south side of McGinty Mountain. The County of San Diego McGinty Mountain County Park and several privately owned parcels lie in between the bulk of the northerly TNC parcels and an isolated southern parcel, although an easement for a trail covers some of the intervening parcels.

The Nature Conservancy is seeking to cooperatively manage their ownerships along with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). At the present all the TNC fee-owned parcels are considered 100 percent preserved, with no exclusions except hiking trails, and passive recreational uses.

### ***California Department of Fish and Game McGinty Mountain Reserve***

### ***Ecological***

The California Department of Fish and Game owns both fee title and easements on property on McGinty Mountain. The lands covered by a Conservation Easement to the CDFG consist of 5 tax parcels and total 150.37 acres (owned by The Environmental Trust) and the lands owned in fee title consist of 86.67 acres on a single tax parcel. These lands are managed by the CDFG as the McGinty Mountain Ecological Reserve. These lands will be managed by the CDFG consistent with the biological goals of the MSCP and will be considered 100 percent preserved.

These lands have high resource value, and because of the proximity to other lands owned and managed for natural resource values by TNC, TET, and the County of San Diego, should serve as an anchor point for additional acquisition of core and linkage habitats. The Nature Conservancy Lands on McGinty Mountain

### ***California Department of Forestry West Tecate Peak Ownership***

The Department of Forestry owns and manages approximately 2,200 acres abutting the western boundary of BLM property on the west side of Tecate Peak. This property does not have a formal management plan but is presently used for prescribed burning, training for California Department of Forestry uses, and resource management. The site has both Chaparral and Southern Tecate cypress forest.

### ***Bureau of Land Management Lands in Otay Mountain Area***

The BLM adopted the South Coast Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision on May 26, 1994. This plan addressed management of approximately 296,000 acres of BLM-administered public land in the southwestern Counties of California. The San Diego County Management Area includes 65,000 acres of BLM public land, and an additional 74,000 acres of BLM split estate lands in the western portion of the County. In Split Estate lands, the Federal government still controls mineral resources, but not the surface uses of the land (these lands are not shown on the SCS maps). Most of the BLM public lands, including the largest parcels, are in

the mountainous terrain lying between Interstate Highway 8 and the United States/Mexican Border. The 1994 plan identified a number of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), Research Natural Areas (RNAs) and Outstanding Natural Areas (ONAs) for the protection of sensitive resources and Native American religious values (see BLM, 1994). The plan identifies a number of Resource Condition Objectives and specific Land Use Allocations (and planned acquisitions).

In June 1994, the BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, San Diego Association of Governments (including the County of San Diego and the City of San Diego) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for cooperation in habitat conservation planning and management. This includes policies dealing with diversity, coordination of land management, resolution of conflicts between land management prescriptions and conservation objectives, and cooperation in acquiring other habitat areas and corridors.

BLM has summarized details of the plan for the land within the SCS as follows:

Resource Objectives. The South Coast RMP/ROD identified the following resource condition objectives for the San Diego County Management Area:

- a. Emphasize protection and enhancement of sensitive species habitat and open space values.
- b. Improve management effectiveness within the management area through disposal of isolated parcels and consolidation of BLM public land ownership.
- c. Enhance habitats for all wildlife species, including deer and quail.
- d. Provide opportunities for low-impact recreation through provision of facilities and services.
- e. Protect Native American values associated with Caecum (Tecate Peak).

#### ***Bureau of Land Management Lands in Otay Mountain Area***

The preserve exclusions are contained in the South Coast Management Plan (BLM, 1994).

#### ***City of San Diego Land Around Otay Lakes***

City owned lands are included in this Segment of the SCS to maintain continuity. These lands around Otay Lakes and the biological resources they support are discussed in the City of San Diego's Subarea Plan. Some of these lands are subject to a mitigation banking agreement between the City and the Wildlife Agencies called the Cornerstone Lands Agreement. These lands will form a cornerstone for a natural open space corridor in the South Bay area. Otay Lakes Road may be realigned and Proctor Valley road improved on these cornerstone lands.

#### ***City of San Diego Marron Valley Property***

Marron Valley occupies approximately 2,300 acres in the southeastern portion of the MSCP study area.

"The large drainages through this area (e.g., the Tijuana river, Bee Canyon, and Cottonwood Creek) support significant stands of riparian habitat and function as major wildlife corridors. These riparian areas offer excellent opportunities for restoration and enhancement. Much of the area is currently leased for cattle grazing. Portions of the lands are overgrazed (Ogden field

data), but likely could be restored with removal of grazing or decreased intensity and rotation of grazing. Management of this area for biological resources will pose special problems because of its remoteness and proximity to the Mexican border. Conservation of Marron Valley will provide wildlife habitat, offer opportunities for the creation and enhancement of various habitat types (i.e., riparian, coastal sage scrub), and extend the sphere of protected lands surrounding the San Ysidro Mountains.”

### **Metro-Lakeside-Jamul Segment**

The Metro-Lakeside-Jamul Segment of the County Subarea Plan includes lands that are under the jurisdiction of San Diego County and within the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) planning area. This Segment has two parts, one in the north bounded by the City of San Diego, Poway, and the boundary of the MSCP area. The second part is bounded on the west by several incorporated areas, on the east and north by the MSCP boundary, and on the south by the South County Segment (SCS). For purposes of this plan, the Metro-Lakeside-Jamul Segment is analyzed in two sections, separated by I-8.

The Metro-Lakeside-Jamul Segment has a total area of 172,952 acres, of which 115,241 are in natural vegetation with habitat value. The area north of I-8 occupies 74,510 acres, of which 51,543 provide habitat. South of I-8, the Metro-Lakeside-Jamul Segment includes 98,442 acres with 63,698 acres of habitat. Urban uses, other development, and agriculture occupy the remaining 57,711 acres.

Population centers within this Segment include the unincorporated communities of Jamul, Jamacha, Rancho San Diego, Lakeside, Moreno, Eucalyptus Hills, Lakeview, Johnstown, Flinn Springs, Spring Valley, Mt. Helix, Crest, and Winter Gardens. Lands in the Metro-Lakeside-Jamul Segment provide future opportunities for both development and conservation. Conservation of approximately 33,200 additional acres in an appropriate configuration are needed to achieve the biological goals for the Metro-Lakeside-Jamul Segment. Of the total goal for additional conservation, approximately 17,000 acres are to be located north of I-8 and approximately 15,500 south of I-8.

No grading will be done within the SCS without a determination of conformance with the SCS by the Director of the Department of Planning and Land Use of the County of San Diego.

### **Overall policies and guidelines for the Metro-Lakeside-Jamul Segment**

#### *Major Issues*

The major issues that require consideration for management in the Metro-Lakeside-Jamul Segment, based on the existing conditions are the following, in order of priority:

1. Intense land uses and activities adjacent to and in covered species habitat.
2. Dumping, litter, and vandalism.
3. Itinerant living quarters.
4. Mining, excavation, and related processing activities.
5. Exotic (non-native), invasive plants and animals.
6. Enhancement and restoration needs.
7. Water quality.
8. Utility, facility and road repair, construction, and maintenance activities.

## 9. Cultural Resources.

### *Priority 1:*

1. Acknowledge the no-net-loss-of-wetlands standard that individual projects must meet to satisfy state and federal wetland goals, policies, and standards and implement applicable County ordinances with regards to wetland mitigation.
2. Identify and map narrow endemics and critical populations in the preserve so that these areas can be avoided and monitored. Surveys should occur in the spring of the year or the appropriate season as determined by the protocols of the species being surveyed. These areas will prohibit any building or recreational activities.
3. Maximize the habitat structural diversity of conserved habitat areas, including conservation of unique habitats and habitat features (e.g., soil types, rock outcrops, drainages, host plants).
4. Provide for the conservation of spatially representative (e.g., north of I-8 vs. south of I-8) examples of extensive patches of coastal sage scrub and other habitat types that were ranked as having high and very high biological value by the MSCP habitat evaluation model.
5. Create significant blocks of habitat to reduce edge effects and maximize the ratio of surface area to the perimeter of conserved habitats. Potential impacts from new development on biological resources within the preserve that should be considered in the design of any project include access, nonnative predators, nonnative species, illumination, drain water (point source), urban runoff (non-point source), and noise.
6. Preserve the biological integrity of linkages between Biological Resource Core Areas.
7. Inventory cultural resources within the preserve area. The inventory will include a record search at the South Coastal Information Center, SDSU, and an on-foot field survey. Develop a management plan for the cultural resources which will provide for monitoring and protection.

### **Critical Biological Resource Areas of the Metro-Lakeside-Jamul Segment**

Five linkages are located in the Metro-Lakeside-Jamul Segment. They are:

1. Otay Ranch to Sequan, a linkage consisting of many small parcels of land. Although most of this linkage occurs in natural land, assembling an adequate linkage will require negotiations with many landowners;
2. Sweetwater Reservoir to McGinty Mountain, a highly fragmented area. The southern part of this linkage is narrow and highly constrained by development.
3. I-8 at Lakeside, another area with considerable development and multiple small parcels of land. The conserved area south of I-8 has been expanded to about 2,600 acres by the creation of the Crestridge Mitigation Bank;
4. Dehesa to El Capitan Reservoir, a linkage to US Forest Service lands outside the MSCP area. This linkage is an important corridor for species that occupy habitats other than Coastal sage

scrub; and

5. Boden Canyon, a linkage in the extreme northeast of the MSCP area. It provides a connection to Rancho Guejito outside the MSCP area.

*Priority 1:*

1. Minimize habitat fragmentation; provide habitat for plants and animals in transit; maintain genetic and demographic interchange between populations; facilitate daily, annual, and seasonal movements; permit dispersal to breeding and foraging areas; and facilitate 'rescue' of small peripheral populations from extinction.
2. Identify and map narrow endemics and critical populations in the preserve so that these areas can be avoided and monitored. Surveys should occur in the spring of the year or the appropriate season as determined by the protocols of the species being surveyed. These areas will prohibit any building or recreational activities.
3. Evaluate the habitat needs and dispersal characteristics of the target species and how they relate to the landscape and development patterns in the area. The following are the design criteria for projects to protect the biological values of linkages and corridors:
  - Maintain habitat linkages consisting of vegetative and topographic cover.
  - Maintain existing movement corridors within linkages.
  - Accommodate regional corridors that provide travel for a wide range of wildlife species, especially those linkages that support resident populations of wildlife.
  - The width of a linkage will be based on the biological information for the target species, the quality of the habitat within and adjacent to the corridor, topography, and adjacent land uses. Where there is limited topographic relief, the corridor must be well vegetated and adequately buffered from adjacent development.
  - If a corridor is relatively long, it must be wide enough for animals to hide in during the day. Generally, wide corridors are better than narrow ones. If narrow corridors are unavoidable, they should be relatively short. If the minimum width of a corridor is 400 feet, it should be no longer than 500 feet. A width of greater than 1,000 feet is recommended for large mammals and birds. Corridors for bobcats, deer, and other large animals should reach rim-to-rim along drainages, especially if the topography is steep.
  - Visual continuity (i.e., long lines-of-sight) will be provided within movement corridors. Developments along the rim of a canyon used as a corridor should be set back from the canyon rim and screened to minimize their visual impact.
  - Select corridors with low levels of human disturbance, especially at night. This includes maintaining low noise levels and limiting artificial lighting.
  - Barriers, such as roads, will be minimized. Roads that cross corridors should have 10-foot high fencing that channels wildlife to underpasses located away from interchanges. The length-to-width ratio for wildlife underpasses is less than 2, although this restriction can be relaxed for underpasses with a height of greater than 30 feet.
  - Where possible at wildlife crossings, road bridges for the vehicular traffic rather than tunnels for wildlife use will be employed. Box culverts will only be used when they can achieve the wildlife crossing/movement goals for a specific location. Crossings will be designed as

follows: sound insulation materials will be provided; the substrate will be left in a natural condition, and vegetated with native vegetation if possible; a line-of-sight to the other end will be provided; and, if necessary, low-level illumination will be installed in the tunnel.

- If continuous corridors do not exist, archipelago (or stepping-stone) corridors may be used for short distances. For example, the gnatcatcher may use disjunct patches of sage scrub for dispersal if the distance involved is under 1-2 miles. Impacts to rare, narrow endemic animal species, listed in Table 4-6 within the MSCP Subarea, shall be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Species-specific requirements set forth in Table 3-5 of the MSCP Plan including any applicable limitations on clearing of occupied habitat shall be complied with.

## **Specific Management Policies and Directives for the Metro Lakeside-Jamul Segment**

### **Background**

#### ***Goals and Objectives***

The Metro Lakeside-Jamul Segment consists of varying types of topography. In spite of and due to the constraints on this land, the optimum future condition envisioned for the Lakeside-Jamul Segment is a network of open and relatively undisturbed canyons, ridges, river valleys and their associated slopes, containing a full ensemble of native species which provide functional wildlife habitat and movement capability. Integrated into the preserve network will be recreational trails.

#### **Covered Species**

Covered species in this area include:

#### **Plants**

San Diego thorn-mint  
 San Diego ambrosia  
 Encinitas baccharis  
 Orcutt's brodiaea  
 dense reed grass  
 slender-pod jewelflower  
 Lakeside ceanothus  
 wart-stemmed ceanothus  
 Palmer's ericameria  
 San Diego barrel cactus  
 felt-leaved monardella  
 willow monardella  
 San Diego goldenstar  
 Dehesa bear-grass  
 San Miguel savory  
 Gander's butterweed  
 narrow-leaved nightshade  
 Parry's tetradlea

#### **Animals**

arroyo southwestern toad  
 southwestern pond turtle  
 San Diego horned lizard  
 orange-throated whiptail  
 bald eagle  
 northern harrier  
 Cooper's hawk  
 ferruginous hawk  
 golden eagle  
 coastal cactus wren  
 California gnatcatcher  
 western bluebird  
 least Bell's vireo  
 California rufous-crowned sparrow  
 mountain lion  
 southern mule deer

*Major Issues*

The major issues that require consideration for management in area are the following, in order of priority:

1. Intense land uses and activities adjacent to and in covered species habitat and linkages.
2. Off-road vehicle activity.
3. Dumping, litter, and vandalism.
4. Enhancement and restoration needs.
5. Exotic (non-native), invasive plants and animals.
6. Utility, facility and road repair, construction (i.e., SR 125) and maintenance activities.
7. Cultural Resources.

*Priority 1:*

1. Protection of Oak riparian, coastal sage scrub and other upland habitats from disturbance will require periodic monitoring to ensure no disturbance is occurring. If disturbance occurs, implement protective measures.
2. Identify and map narrow endemics and critical populations in the preserve so that these areas can be avoided and monitored. Surveys should occur in the spring of the year or the appropriate season as determined by the protocols of the species being surveyed. These areas will prohibit any building or recreational activities.
3. Any proposed equestrian operations should generally occur where those uses already occur or be placed approximately 300-500 feet away from coastal sage scrub or riparian habitats.
4. Inventory cultural resources within the preserve area. The inventory will include a record search at the South Coastal Information Center, SDSU, and an on-foot field survey. Develop a management plan for the cultural resources which will provide for monitoring and protection.

*Priority 2:*

1. Generally in most areas of the preserve, including creeks and tributaries, riparian vegetation will naturally regenerate and active restoration will not be needed except for locations where determined necessary by future preserve managers. Where enhancement is considered, use only local native species.
2. Restore the areas within the preserve to strengthen the wildlife connection.
3. Ensure maintenance of a continuous regional wildlife corridor with connections made to offsite open space lands wherever possible.

**San Diego County Property**

This land varies in its value for wildlife because of the recreational uses in some areas; however, all of these areas provide habitat for sensitive species within this Segment. Dos Picos, Lake Jennings, and Louis Stelzer Regional Parks, three highly developed areas, are not included in this list because of their limited use as habitat.

*El Capitan Preserve:*

This 2,839-acre reserve consists of mixed chaparral, oak woodland, and Coastal sage scrub. It provides habitat for many species, including the California gnatcatcher and peregrine falcon. This preserve connects to U.S. Forest Service land east of the MSCP area.

Covered species in the El Capitan Preserve include:

Plants

San Diego thorn-mint  
 San Diego ambrosia  
 Encinitas baccharis  
 Orcutt's brodiaea  
 dense reed grass  
 slender-pod jewelflower  
 Lakeside ceanothus  
 wart-stemmed ceanothus  
 Palmer's ericameria  
 San Diego barrel cactus  
 felt-leaved monardella  
 willowy monardella  
 San Diego goldenstar  
 Dehesa bear-grass  
 San Miguel savory  
 Gander's butterweed  
 narrow-leaved nightshade  
 Parry's tetradlea

Animals

arroyo southwestern toad  
 southwestern pond turtle  
 San Diego horned lizard  
 orange-throated whiptail  
 bald eagle  
 northern harrier  
 Cooper's hawk  
 ferruginous hawk  
 golden eagle  
 coastal cactus wren  
 California gnatcatcher  
 western bluebird  
 least Bell's vireo  
 California rufous-crowned sparrow  
 mountain lion  
 southern mule deer

In addition, various raptors, including the northern harrier, use the valley for foraging and nesting.

*Major Issues*

The major issues that require consideration for management in the area, based on the existing conditions are the following, in order of priority:

1. Intense land uses and activities adjacent to and in covered species habitat.
2. Dumping, litter, and vandalism.
3. Itinerant living quarters.
4. Mining, excavation, and related processing activities.
5. Exotic (non-native), invasive plants and animals.
6. Enhancement and restoration needs.
7. Water quality.
8. Utility, facility and road repair, construction, and maintenance activities.
9. Cultural Resources

*Priority 1:*

1. Coordinate an invasive non-native plant removal program with a regional MSCP management program in order for effective, long-term management of this problem. In areas with least Bell's vireos, the removal program should be limited to the period between mid-September and mid-March of each year.
2. Identify and map narrow endemics and critical populations in the preserve so that these areas can be avoided and monitored. Surveys should occur in the spring of the year or the appropriate season as determined by the protocols of the species being surveyed. These areas will prohibit any building or recreational activities.
3. Protection of Oak riparian, coastal sage scrub and other upland habitats from disturbance will require periodic monitoring to ensure no disturbance is occurring. If disturbance occurs, consider protective measures.
4. Any proposed equestrian operations should generally occur where those uses already occur or be placed approximately 300-500 feet away from coastal sage scrub or riparian habitats where feasible. Inventory cultural resources within the preserve area.
5. The inventory will include a record search at the South Coastal Information Center, SDSU, and an on-foot field survey. Develop a management plan for the cultural resources which will provide for monitoring and protection. Baseline cultural resource research for El Capitan preserve was accomplished as part of the County's acquisition project for the property.

*Priority 2:*

1. Generally in most areas of the preserve, including creeks and tributaries, riparian vegetation will naturally regenerate and active restoration will not be needed except for locations where determined necessary by future preserve managers. Where enhancement is considered, use only local native species.
2. Restore the areas within the preserve to strengthen the wildlife connection.
3. Ensure maintenance of a continuous regional wildlife corridor with connections made to offsite open space lands wherever possible

*Oakosis Preserve:*

This area consists of 397 acres of mixed chaparral and oak woodland, located midway between Sycamore Canyon and El Capitan Preserve.

Covered species in the area include:

Plants

San Diego thorn-mint  
 San Diego ambrosia  
 Encinitas baccharis  
 Orcutt's brodiaea  
 dense reed grass  
 slender-pod jewelflower  
 Lakeside ceanothus

Animals

arroyo southwestern toad  
 southwestern pond turtle  
 San Diego horned lizard  
 orange-throated whiptail  
 bald eagle  
 northern harrier  
 Cooper's hawk

wart-stemmed ceanothus  
Palmer's ericameria  
San Diego barrel cactus  
felt-leaved monardella  
willow monardella  
San Diego goldenstar  
Dehesa bear-grass  
San Miguel savory  
Gander's butterweed  
narrow-leaved nightshade  
Parry's tetracoccus

ferruginous hawk  
golden eagle  
coastal cactus wren  
California gnatcatcher  
western bluebird  
least Bell's vireo  
California rufous-crowned sparrow  
mountain lion  
southern mule deer

### *Major Issues*

The major issues that require consideration for management in the area, based on the existing conditions are the following, in order of priority:

1. Intense land uses and activities adjacent to and in covered species habitat.
2. Dumping, litter, and vandalism.
3. Itinerant living quarters.
4. Mining, excavation, and related processing activities.
5. Exotic (non-native), invasive plants and animals.
6. Enhancement and restoration needs.
7. Water quality.
8. Utility, facility and road repair, construction, and maintenance activities.
9. Cultural Resources

### *Priority 1:*

1. Coordinate an invasive non-native plant removal program with a regional MSCP management program in order for effective, long-term management of this problem. In areas with least Bell's vireos, the removal program should be limited to the period between mid-September and mid-March of each year.
2. Protection of Oak riparian, coastal sage scrub and other upland habitats from disturbance will require periodic monitoring to ensure no disturbance is occurring. If disturbance occurs, consider protective measures.
3. Any proposed equestrian operations should generally occur where those uses already occur or be placed approximately 300-500 feet away from coastal sage scrub or riparian habitats where feasible.
4. Inventory cultural resources within the preserve area. The inventory will include a record search at the South Coastal Information Center, SDSU, and an on-foot field survey. Develop a management plan for the cultural resources, which will provide for monitoring and protection. Oakoasis Preserve includes a historic log house, which will be restored by the County.

*Priority 2:*

1. Generally in most areas of the preserve, including creeks and tributaries, riparian vegetation will naturally regenerate and active restoration will not be needed except for locations where determined necessary by future preserve managers. Where enhancement is considered, use only local native species.
2. Restore the areas within the preserve to strengthen the wildlife connection. When/if the uses in this area change, recognize and incorporate both the constraints of the floodplain and the wildlife corridor into any future lease.
3. Ensure maintenance of a continuous regional wildlife corridor with connections made to offsite open space lands wherever possible. If the land uses in this area south of the river constrain the corridor width, then agreements or negotiations may be necessary to assure adequate width, or other options may need to be considered.

*Sycamore Canyon Open Space:*

This 1,819-acre area is located northwest of Lakeside in central San Diego County, west of Highway 67. It lies immediately east of CDFG's Sycamore Valley Ecological Reserve. The area provides a large contiguous block of open space with chaparral as the dominant vegetation type. Sycamore Canyon Open Space is occupied by both the California gnatcatcher and San Diego thorn-mint.

Plants

San Diego thorn-mint  
 San Diego ambrosia  
 Encinitas baccharis  
 Orcutt's brodiaea  
 dense reed grass  
 slender-pod jewelflower  
 Lakeside ceanothus  
 wart-stemmed ceanothus  
 Palmer's ericameria  
 San Diego barrel cactus  
 felt-leaved monardella  
 willow monardella  
 San Diego goldenstar  
 Dehesa bear-grass  
 San Miguel savory  
 Gander's butterweed  
 narrow-leaved nightshade  
 Parry's tetradlea

Animals

arroyo southwestern toad  
 southwestern pond turtle  
 San Diego horned lizard  
 orange-throated whiptail  
 bald eagle  
 northern harrier  
 Cooper's hawk  
 ferruginous hawk  
 golden eagle  
 coastal cactus wren  
 California gnatcatcher  
 western bluebird  
 least Bell's vireo  
 California rufous-crowned sparrow  
 mountain lion  
 southern mule deer

*Major Issues*

The major issues that require consideration for management in the area, based on the existing conditions are the following, in order of priority:

1. Intense land uses and activities adjacent to and in covered species habitat.
2. Dumping, litter, and vandalism.
3. Itinerant living quarters.
4. Mining, excavation, and related processing activities.
5. Exotic (non-native), invasive plants and animals.
6. Enhancement and restoration needs.
7. Water quality.
8. Utility, facility and road repair, construction, and maintenance activities.
9. Cultural resources

*Priority 1:*

1. Coordinate an invasive non-native plant removal program with a regional MSCP management program in order for effective, long-term management of this problem. In areas with least Bell's vireos, the removal program should be limited to the period between mid-September and mid-March of each year.
2. Protection of Oak riparian, coastal sage scrub and other upland habitats from disturbance will require periodic monitoring to ensure no disturbance is occurring. If disturbance occurs, consider protective measures.
3. Any proposed equestrian operations should generally occur where those uses already occur or be placed approximately 300-500 feet away from coastal sage scrub or riparian habitats where feasible.
4. Inventory cultural resources within the preserve area. The inventory will include a record search at the South Coastal Information Center, SDSU, and an on-foot field survey. Develop a management plan for the cultural resources which will provide for monitoring and protection. Sycamore Canyon and Goodan Ranch include a complex of historic buildings, which have been restored by the County. This park is also the site of the town of Stowe, which exists only as an archaeological site. Numerous prehistoric archaeological sites are also located within this preserve.

*Priority 2:*

1. Generally in most areas of the preserve, including creeks and tributaries, riparian vegetation will naturally regenerate and active restoration will not be needed except for locations where determined necessary by future PRESERVE (preserve) managers. Where enhancement is considered, use only local native species.
2. Restore the areas within the preserve to strengthen the wildlife connection
3. Ensure maintenance of a continuous regional wildlife corridor with connections made to offsite open space lands wherever possible. .

### **Other Open Space and Conservation/Mitigation Banks**

These areas have either already been acquired as mitigation for impacts of specific projects or have been established as mitigation banks that can be used to mitigate for the impacts of future development. Each mitigation bank will prepare a management plan that substantially conforms to the general guidelines of this plan and will be subject to approval by the County and resource agencies.

#### *Crestridge Conservation Bank and Crestridge Habitat Management Area:*

The Crestridge Conservation Bank is a 2,355-acre property located near the community of Lakeside. It supports significant stands of Coastal sage scrub, southern mixed chaparral, and oak woodland habitat. The bank, owned by Gatlin Development Company, represents a regionally important habitat linkage between the Crest/El Cajon areas south of I-8 and habitat lands in Lakeside, and around El Capitan Reservoir located north of I-8. The bank property parallels I-8 from west to east and provides a significant habitat linkage to Harbison Canyon east of the bank.

Harbison Canyon is a key corridor, and the only location in the vicinity of the bank where wildlife can cross under I-8. The Harbison Canyon/Chocolate Canyon drainage is a natural open space connection to the City of San Diego Watershed lands surrounding El Capitan Reservoir to the north. Also in the north, this conservation bank connects to dedicated open space from the East County Square and Fisher Property (Bermuda Hills) developments. Lands dedicated by San Diego County Water Authority and CalTrans abut the property to the south.

The Crestridge Habitat Management Area, owned by the San Diego County Water Authority, consists of 261 acres of Coastal sage scrub and southern mixed chaparral that provide habitat for the following sensitive species: California gnatcatcher, golden eagle, orange-throated whiptail, San Diego horned lizard, and western spadefoot toad. The land, located immediately south of the Crestridge Conservation Bank, is managed by The Environmental Trust as a mitigation bank.

#### *San Vicente Conservation Bank:*

The San Vicente Conservation Bank consists of 320 acres located east of Route 67, south of the City of Poway's Iron Mountain preservation area. It is owned by the Boys and Girls Club of East County Foundation and was developed in cooperation with the Wildlife Agencies.

The property supports 197.4 acres of moderate to high quality Coastal sage scrub habitat, as well as 121.6 acres of southern mixed chaparral. In addition to these dominant plant communities, small areas of alkali marsh and native grassland habitats are present. The habitats on the site are relatively undisturbed and support a broad diversity of plant and wildlife species, including the California gnatcatcher. The site provides an important habitat linkage between the preserved areas in the City of Poway to the north and west and the City of San Diego lands surrounding San Vicente Reservoir to the south.

The conservation bank will be managed by The Environmental Trust, a local non-profit land management organization. Fee title to the entire bank will eventually be transferred to The Environmental Trust, with the Boys and Girls Club of East County.

Land under the ownership of the Helix Companies within the Metro-Lakeside-Jamul Segment is the subject of an agreement with the Wildlife Agencies. These lands consist of a 168-acre property

located west of Del Dios, 500 acres of property in 2 pieces located south of San Vicente Reservoir, a 428-acre property east of Santee and west of Eucalyptus Hills, and a 247-acre property located south of El Capitan Reservoir in the vicinity of Peutz Valley.

### **State-owned Property**

There are four areas owned by the State of California that are in protected status within this Segment.

One parcel was acquired by CalTrans as mitigation for impacts of its projects. The other three are ecological reserves managed by CDFG. Each of these areas either have an established management plan or will prepare a plan which substantially conforms to the general guidelines of this plan and will be subject to County and resource agency approval,

#### *CalTrans/Sandy Trust Property:*

CalTrans acquired 122 acres located near the community of Crest. The land, mostly Coastal sage scrub with some chaparral, is managed by The Environmental Trust.

#### *Sequan Peak Ecological Reserve:*

This reserve is a 593-acre block of land located immediately south of Sloane Ranch. It is primarily chaparral habitat that supports numerous sensitive plant species and serves as a corridor for large mammals including deer and mountain lions.

#### *Sweetwater River Ecological Reserve (Sloane Ranch):*

This reserve, located west of Loveland Reservoir, includes both sides of the Sweetwater River below the dam. It is 495 acres in extent and dominated by oak/willow riparian woodland, Coastal sage scrub, and chaparral, with lesser amounts of several other habitats. The biodiversity is high. The area provides potential habitat for Least Bell's vireo and California gnatcatcher. It is adjacent to Sweetwater Authority Lands at Loveland Reservoir, and to U.S. Forest Service and BLM lands east of the MSCP area.

#### *Sycamore Valley Ecological Reserve:*

This 325-acre preserve, also known as Goodan Ranch, is located in south/central San Diego County between the cities of Poway and Santee, just west of Highway 67. CDFG owns 25% of the property, with the remaining 75% jointly owned by the cities of Poway and Santee.

This property provides high quality, diverse native vegetation for multiple species of wildlife. It supports some sensitive species, including California gnatcatcher, San Diego thorn-mint, and willow monardella. Habitats include southern coast live oak riparian woodland, coast live oak woodland, southern arroyo willow riparian forest, freshwater seep, Diegan coastal sage scrub, southern mixed chaparral, scrub oak chaparral, chamise chaparral, native grassland, and non-native grassland/disturbed.

The location of the property provides a critical link in undeveloped open space in this area. It is between open space at Miramar Naval Air Station (Camp Elliott) and the County's Sycamore Opens Space Preserve. All public ownerships in the Sycamore area combined result in a protected area of approximately 25,000 acres, a portion of which are in this Segment.